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TOPONYMIC DATA FILES: OTHER PUBLICATIONS

The United States Board on Geographic Names Gazetteer Program: gazetteers and data sets of foreign areas - progress since the Sixth Conference

Paper submitted by the United States of America**

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Since 1949 the U.S. Board on Geographic Names (US BGN) has conducted a comprehensive program of gazetteer publication covering both domestic and foreign areas. Gazetteers of foreign areas are researched and prepared by the US BGN Foreign Names Staff at the National Imagery and Mapping Agency (formerly the Defense Mapping Agency) located in Bethesda, Maryland. These publications enjoy widespread use throughout the US Government, in the academic community, and by the public at large. Copies may be obtained through the Map Distribution Office of the United States Geological Survey. The following report covers status of publication since 1992, and developments in the distribution of toponymic data in digital form.

New Editions.

New editions of gazetteers have been published by the US BGN covering the following foreign areas:

Afghanistan	Guyana	Rwanda
Argentina	Haiti	Singapore
Belize	Hungary	South Africa
Bosnia & Herzegovina	Lesser Antilles	Sri Lanka
Brazil (supplement)	Liberia	Suriname
Congo (Republic of the)	Lithuania	Uruguay
Dominican Republic	Mexico	Venezuela
Estonia	Norway	

Bulletins.

Decisions of the US BGN Foreign Names Committee are issued in the quarterly *Foreign Names Information Bulletin*, which began publication in 1992 and superseded the earlier *Foreign Names Decisions*. Fifteen issues of the *Foreign Names Information Bulletin* have appeared to date. A free subscription to the *Bulletin* may be obtained by contacting the author.

Other Publications and Services.
In 1993 the US BGN issued its first *Publications Catalog*, describing all of the domestic and foreign geographic names publications and services provided by the Board. A new edition of the *Catalog* is expected in the coming year.

In 1994 the Board published *Romanization Systems and Roman-Script Spelling Conventions*, containing tabular description of all the romanization systems developed or agreed upon for joint use by the US BGN and the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names for British Official Use.

A digital version of the content of the gazetteers of foreign areas became available in 1995 on compact disk. The product is considered interim as diacritical marks and special characters are not yet supported. A new version of the disk, with files formatted in the hypertext markup language (html), should be available in late 1997.

Finally, access to the US BGN data base of foreign geographic names is available through the Internet World Wide Web at *http://www.nima.mil/* or *http://164.214.2.59/*. Select the "Information and Services" option to reach the GEOnet Names Server. A variety of query options (by name, country, coordinates, feature type, etc.) is supported.

Further information about these publications and services may be obtained from the author.